DC
BATMAN
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Gotham
PART ONE • BY WAGNER & KENNEDY

When clouds o'ershadow night's great eye,
And winged creatures swirl on darkning sky;
When north wind's chill breath winds
Through Gotham's caverns, caressing every spine.
In that hour the Gargoyle stalks his prey,
And darker demons speed the dawn of judgment day...

A GOTHAM TALE PART I GARGOYLES

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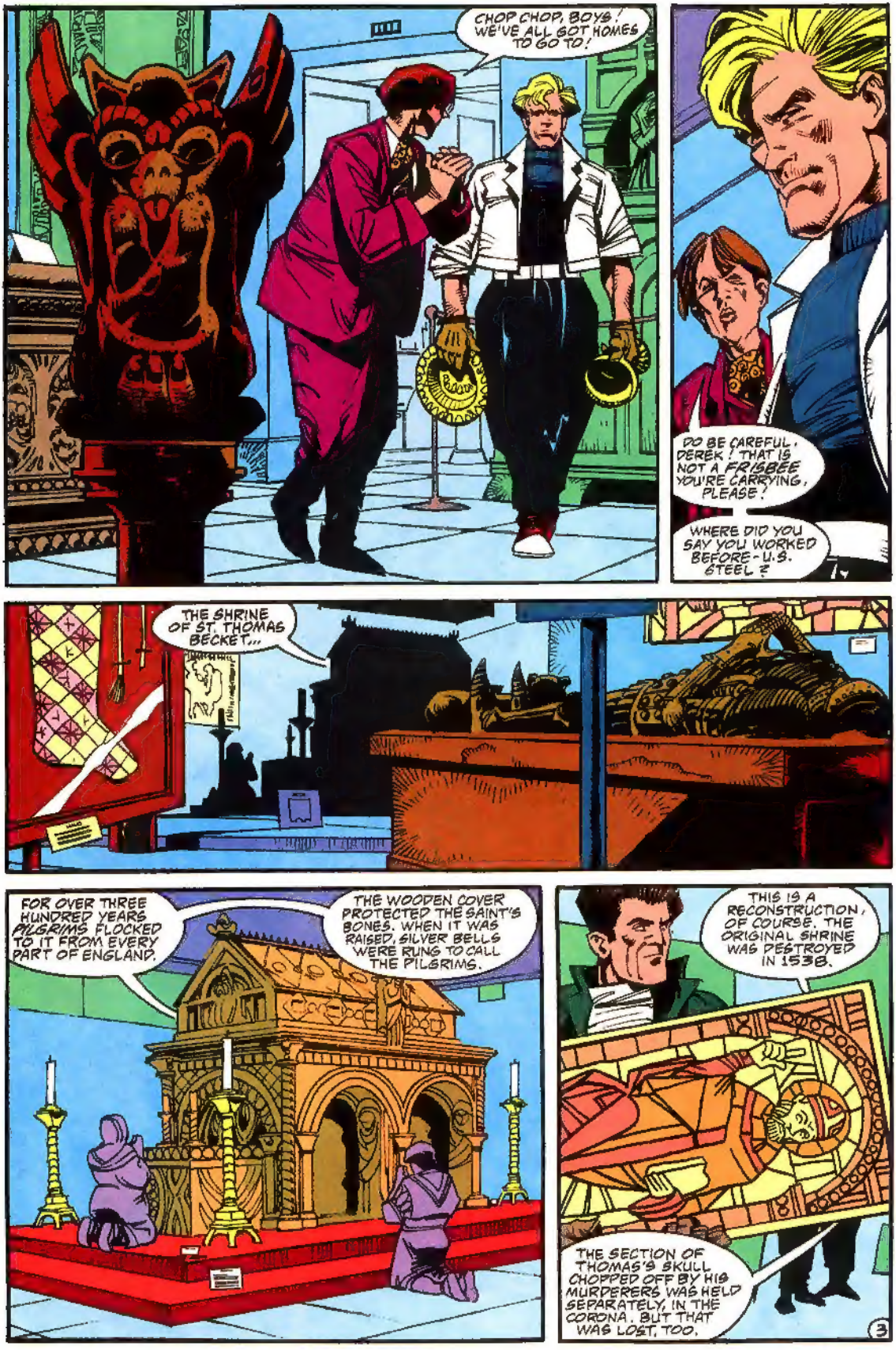
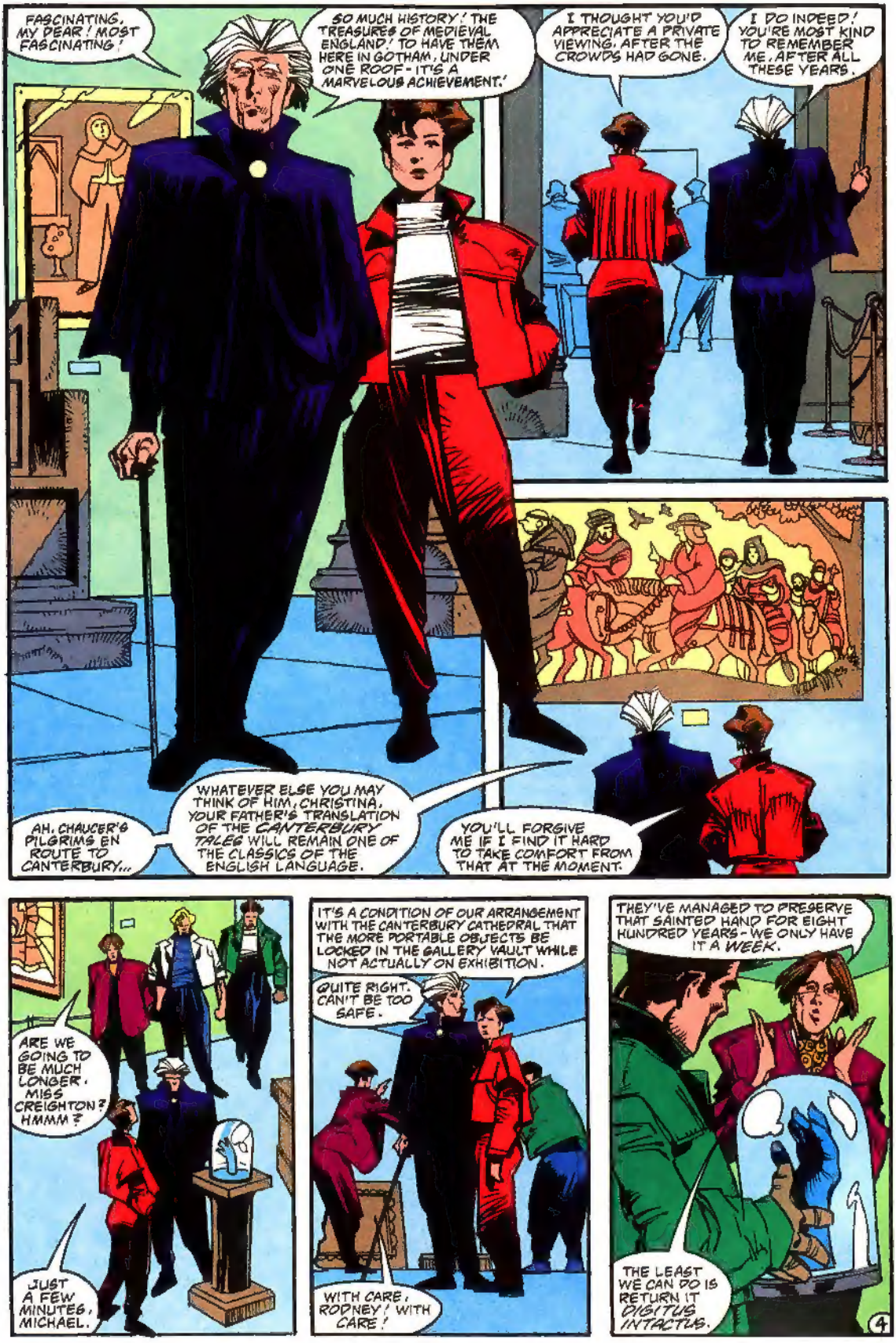
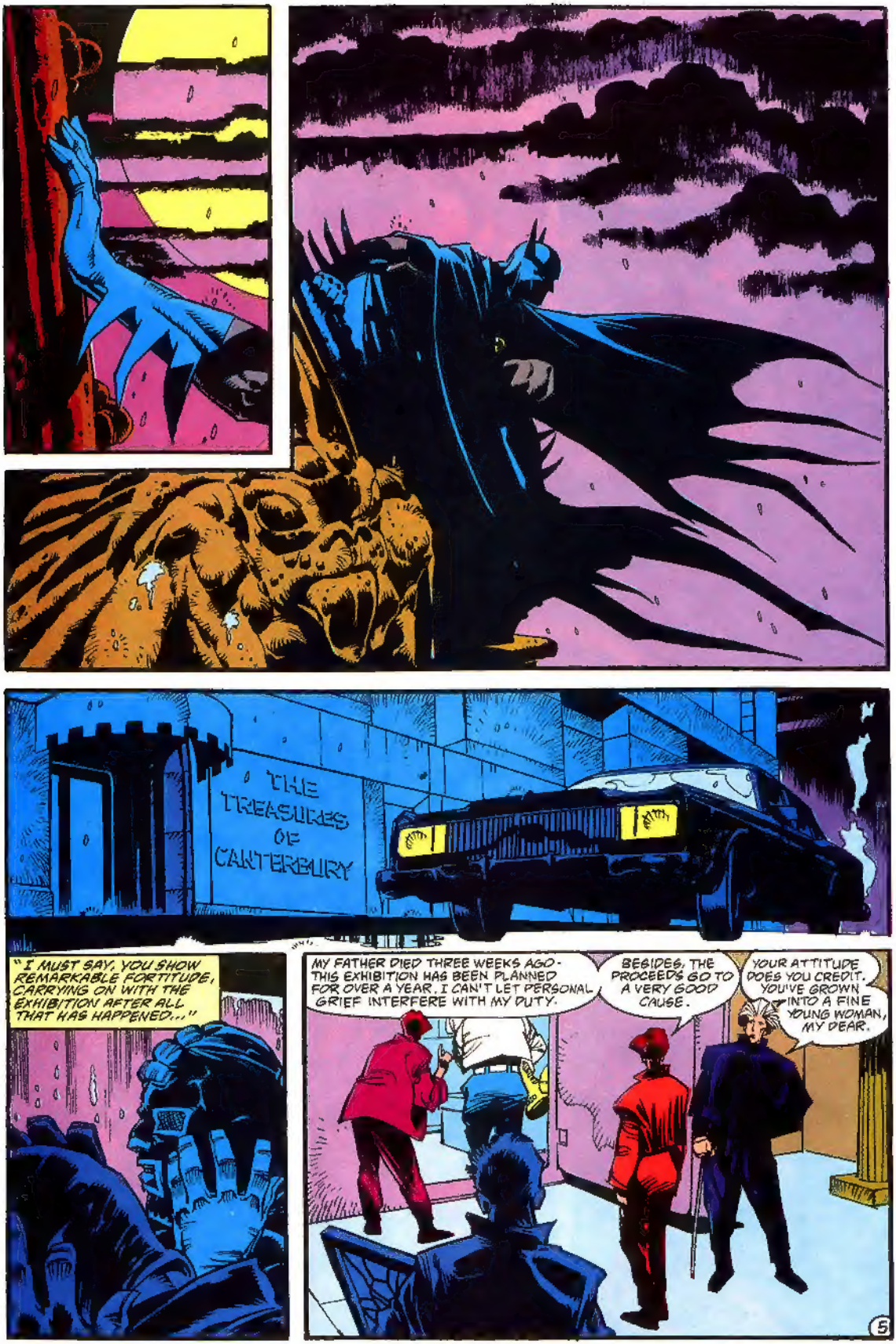
G-7202

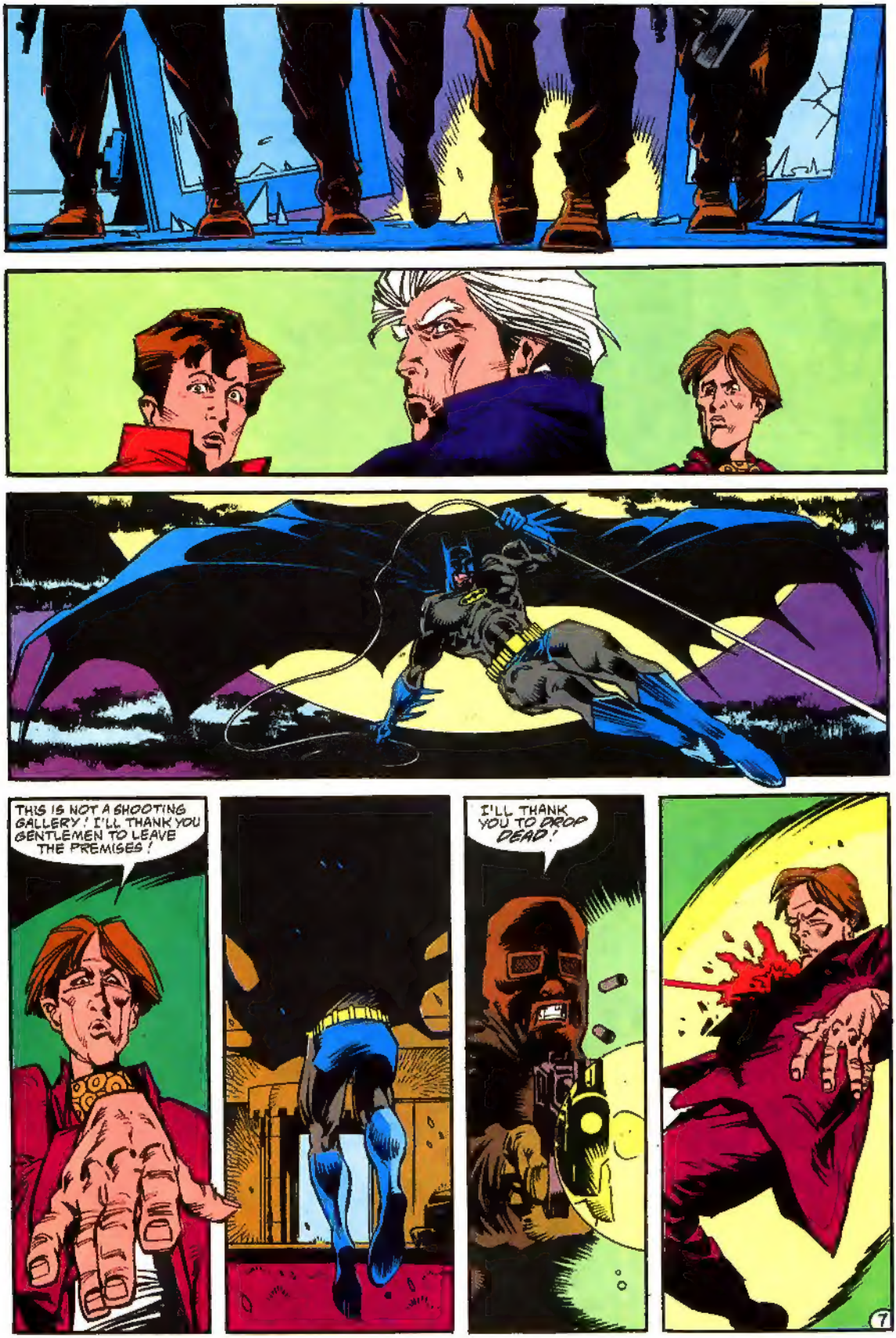
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO SEARCH TONIGHT--
--DOESN'T HAVE TO COURSE THE CITY STREETS, LISTENING FOR THE SCREAM, WATCHING FOR THE FLASH OF STEEL OR THE GLINT OF EVIL IN A MAN'S EYES...
TONIGHT HE KNOWS.
TIME AND PLACE.
THE TREASURES OF CANTERBURY
EXHIBITION OPEN TODAY
GOOD THING, TOO.
LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
2


CHOP CHOP, BOYS! WE'VE ALL GOT HOMES TO GO TO!
DO BE CAREFUL, DEREK! THAT IS NOT A FRISBEE YOU'RE CARRYING, PLEASE!
WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU WORKED BEFORE - U.S. STEEL?
THE SHRINE OF ST. THOMAS BECKET...
FOR OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS PILGRIMS FLOCKED TO IT FROM EVERY PART OF ENGLAND.
THE WOODEN COVER PROTECTED THE SAINT'S BONES. WHEN IT WAS RAISED, SILVER BELLS WERE RUNG TO CALL THE PILGRIMS.
THIS IS A RECONSTRUCTION, OF COURSE. THE ORIGINAL SHRINE WAS DESTROYED IN 1538.
THE SECTION OF THOMAS'S SKULL CHOPPED OFF BY HIS MURDERERS WAS HELD SEPARATELY, IN THE CORONA. BUT THAT WAS LOST, TOO.
3


FASCINATING, MY DEAR! MOST FASCINATING!
SO MUCH HISTORY! THE TREASURES OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND! TO HAVE THEM HERE IN GOTHAM, UNDER ONE ROOF - IT'S A MARVELOUS ACHIEVEMENT.
I THOUGHT YOU'D APPRECIATE A PRIVATE VIEWING, AFTER THE CROWDS HAD GONE.
I DO INDEED! YOU'RE MOST KIND TO REMEMBER ME, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.
AH, CHAUCER'S PILGRIMS EN ROUTE TO CANTERBURY...
WHATEVER ELSE YOU MAY THINK OF HIM, CHRISTINA, YOUR FATHER'S TRANSLATION OF THE CANTERBURY TALES WILL REMAIN ONE OF THE CLASSICS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I FIND IT HARD TO TAKE COMFORT FROM THAT AT THE MOMENT.
ARE WE GOING TO BE MUCH LONGER, MISS CREIGHTON? HMMM?
JUST A FEW MINUTES, MICHAEL.
IT'S A CONDITION OF OUR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL THAT THE MORE PORTABLE OBJECTS BE LOCKED IN THE GALLERY VAULT WHILE NOT ACTUALLY ON EXHIBITION.
QUITE RIGHT. CAN'T BE TOO SAFE.
WITH CARE, RODNEY! WITH CARE!
THEY'VE MANAGED TO PRESERVE THAT SAINTED HAND FOR EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS - WE ONLY HAVE IT A WEEK.
THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS RETURN IT DIGITUS INTACTUS.
4

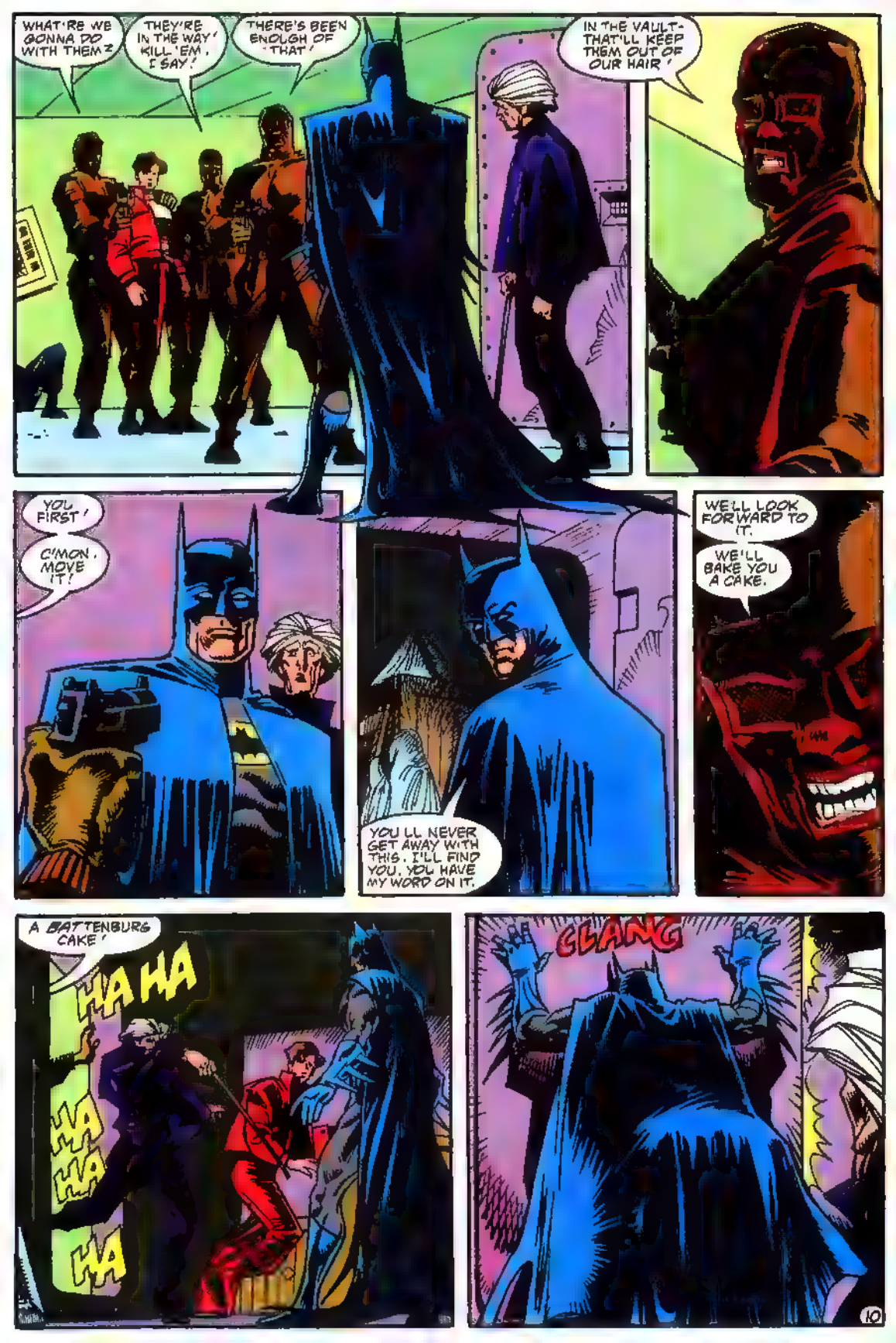

THE TREASURES OF CANTERBURY
"I MUST SAY, YOU SHOW REMARKABLE FORTITUDE, CARRYING ON WITH THE EXHIBITION AFTER ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED..."
MY FATHER DIED THREE WEEKS AGO. THIS EXHIBITION HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR OVER A YEAR. I CAN'T LET PERSONAL GRIEF INTERFERE WITH MY DUTY.
BESIDES, THE PROCEEDS GO TO A VERY GOOD CAUSE.
YOUR ATTITUDE DOES YOU CREDIT. YOU'VE GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG WOMAN, MY DEAR.
5

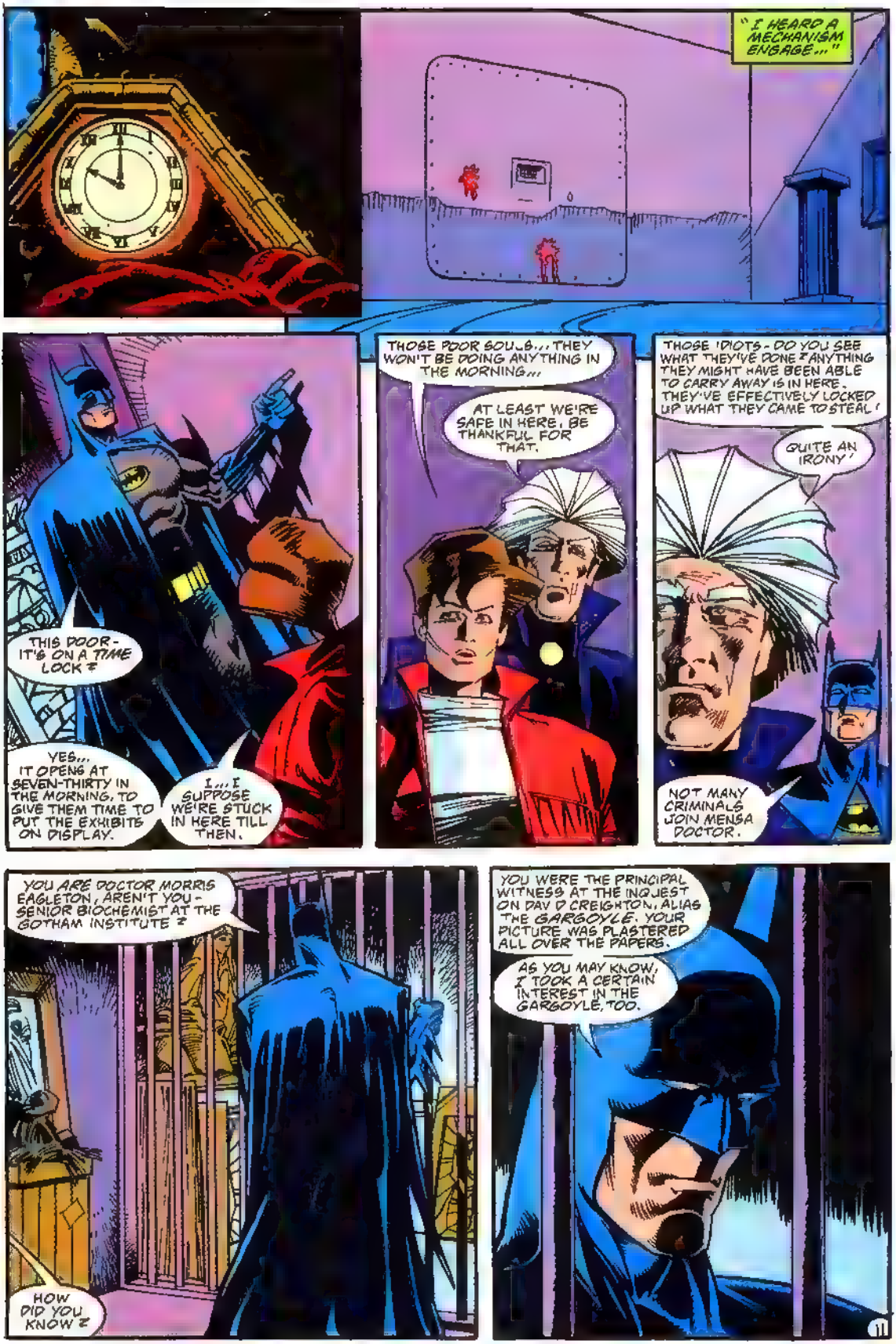
LITTLE CHRISTINA! TO THINK ALL THOSE YEARS AGO I BOUNCED YOU ON MY KNEE! IT WAS A SOURCE OF... GREAT REGRET TO ME WHEN YOUR FATHER CHOSE TO SEND YOU AWAY.
NOW YOU KNOW WHY...
TO PROTECT ME... FROM HIMSELF.
YOU WERE HIS FRIEND. YOU WORKED WITH HIM. IN ALL THOSE YEARS DID YOU NEVER SUSPECT WHAT KIND OF... MONSTER HE'D BECOME?
NO...
AS I SAID AT THE INQUEST, MY PART IN HIS EXPERIMENTS WAS MERCIFULLY BRIEF. I THOUGHT THE WHOLE FOOLISH VENTURE FORGOTTEN. I NEVER ONCE CONNECTED DAVID WITH THE GARGOYLE...
DON'T BE TOO HARSH ON HIM, MY DEAR. HE COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF. IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT... THE THING WAS STRONGER THAN HE WAS.
BRRINGGG
6

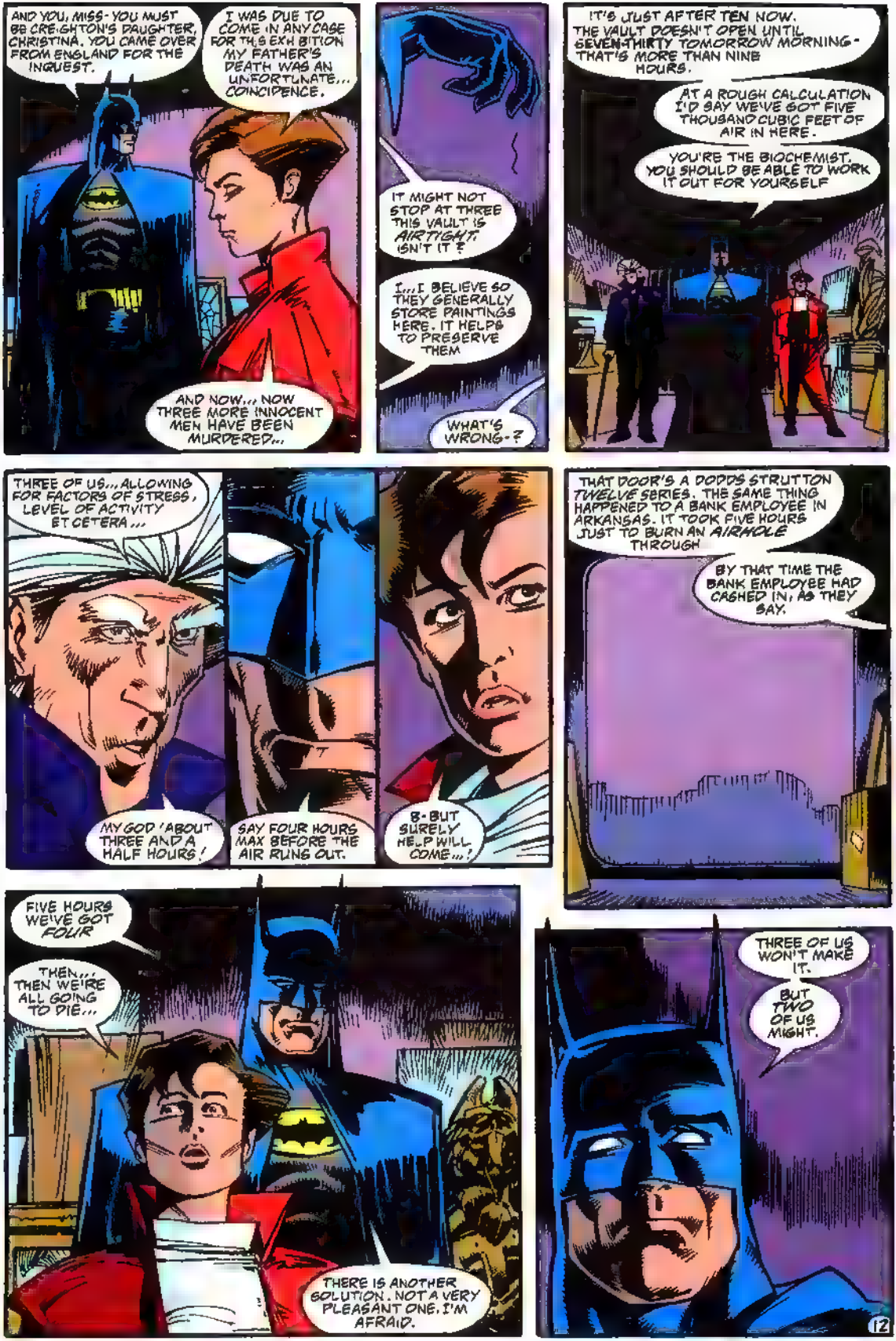

THIS IS NOT A SHOOTING GALLERY! I'LL THANK YOU GENTLEMEN TO LEAVE THE PREMISES!
I'LL THANK YOU TO DROP DEAD!

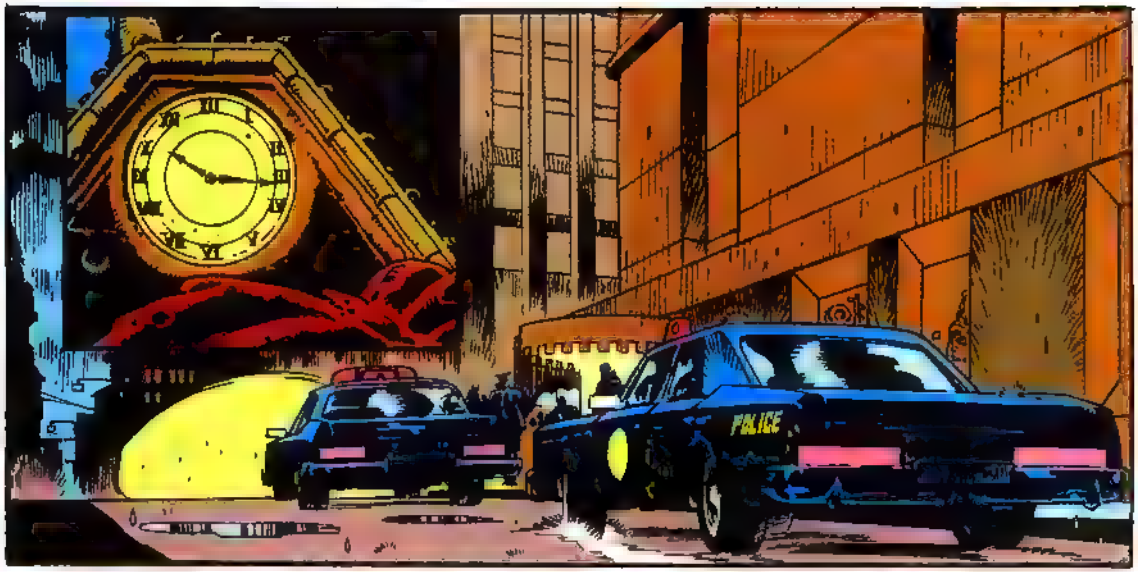
MICHAEL!
I'M TOO LATE--!
BATMAN!
--THEY DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE CRAZY ENOUGH TO COME IN SHOOTING!
I GOT A TIP YOU MANIACS MIGHT SHOW--
WITH BATMAN HERE WE CAN TAKE 'EM!
KACHOW
KACHOW!
KACHOW!
YOU WERE WARNED, MEATHEADS!
8

OH MY LIFE!
STOP THIS! STOP THIS!
DROP IT!
I'M GOING TO SEE YOU MURDERING SCUM GO AWAY FOR A LONG TIME!
WRONG, BATMAN!
ONE MORE MOVE AND THIS BABE'S BRAINS GO ON EXHIBITION!
THAT'S BETTER!
9


WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH THEM?
THEY'RE IN THE WAY! KILL 'EM, I SAY!
THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH OF THAT!
IN THE VAULT- THAT'LL KEEP THEM OUT OF OUR HAIR!
YOU FIRST!
C'MON, MOVE IT!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS. I'LL FIND YOU. YOU HAVE MY WORD ON IT.
WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
WE'LL BAKE YOU A CAKE.
A BATTENBURG CAKE!
HA HA
HA HA HA
HA
CLANG
10

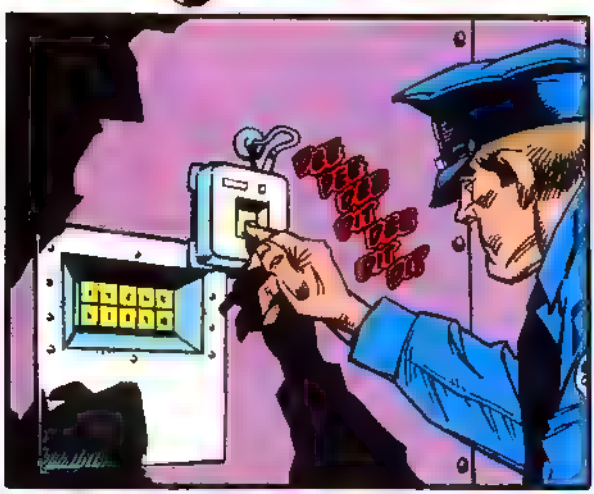

"I HEARD A MECHANISM ENGAGE..."
THOSE POOR SOULS... THEY WON'T BE DOING ANYTHING IN THE MORNING...
AT LEAST WE'RE SAFE IN HERE, BE THANKFUL FOR THAT.
THOSE IDIOTS - DO YOU SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE? ANYTHING THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY AWAY IS IN HERE. THEY'VE EFFECTIVELY LOCKED UP WHAT THEY CAME TO STEAL!
QUITE AN IRONY!
NOT MANY CRIMINALS JOIN MENSA DOCTOR.
THIS DOOR - IT'S ON A TIME LOCK?
YES... IT OPENS AT SEVEN-THIRTY IN THE MORNING, TO GIVE THEM TIME TO PUT THE EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY.
I... I SUPPOSE WE'RE STUCK IN HERE TILL THEN.
YOU ARE DOCTOR MORRIS EAGLETON, AREN'T YOU - SENIOR BIOCHEMIST AT THE GOTHAM INSTITUTE?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU WERE THE PRINCIPAL WITNESS AT THE INQUEST ON DAVID CREIGHTON, ALIAS THE GARGOYLE. YOUR PICTURE WAS PLASTERED ALL OVER THE PAPERS.
AS YOU MAY KNOW, I TOOK A CERTAIN INTEREST IN THE GARGOYLE, TOO.
11

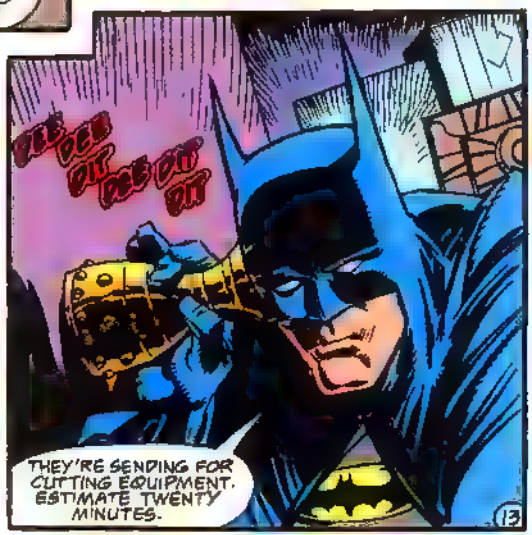

AND YOU, MISS- YOU MUST BE CREIGHTON'S DAUGHTER, CHRISTINA. YOU CAME OVER FROM ENGLAND FOR THE INQUEST.
I WAS DUE TO COME IN ANY CASE FOR THIS EXHIBITION MY FATHER'S DEATH WAS AN UNFORTUNATE... COINCIDENCE.
AND NOW... NOW THREE MORE INNOCENT MEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED...
IT MIGHT NOT STOP AT THREE THIS VAULT IS AIRTIGHT, ISN'T IT?
I...I BELIEVE SO THEY GENERALLY STORE PAINTINGS HERE. IT HELPS TO PRESERVE THEM
WHAT'S WRONG-?
IT'S JUST AFTER TEN NOW. THE VAULT DOESN'T OPEN UNTIL SEVEN-THIRTY TOMORROW MORNING- THAT'S MORE THAN NINE HOURS.
AT A ROUGH CALCULATION I'D SAY WE'VE GOT FIVE THOUSAND CUBIC FEET OF AIR IN HERE.
YOU'RE THE BIOCHEMIST. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK IT OUT FOR YOURSELF
THREE OF US... ALLOWING FOR FACTORS OF STRESS, LEVEL OF ACTIVITY ET CETERA...
MY GOD 'ABOUT THREE AND A HALF HOURS!
SAY FOUR HOURS MAX BEFORE THE AIR RUNS OUT.
B-BUT SURELY HELP WILL COME...!
THAT DOOR'S A DODDS STRUTTON TWELVE SERIES. THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO A BANK EMPLOYEE IN ARKANSAS. IT TOOK FIVE HOURS JUST TO BURN AN AIRHOLE THROUGH
BY THAT TIME THE BANK EMPLOYEE HAD CASHED IN, AS THEY SAY.
FIVE HOURS WE'VE GOT FOUR
THEN... THEN WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE...
THERE IS ANOTHER SOLUTION. NOT A VERY PLEASANT ONE, I'M AFRAID.
THREE OF US WON'T MAKE IT.
BUT TWO OF US MIGHT.


POLICE

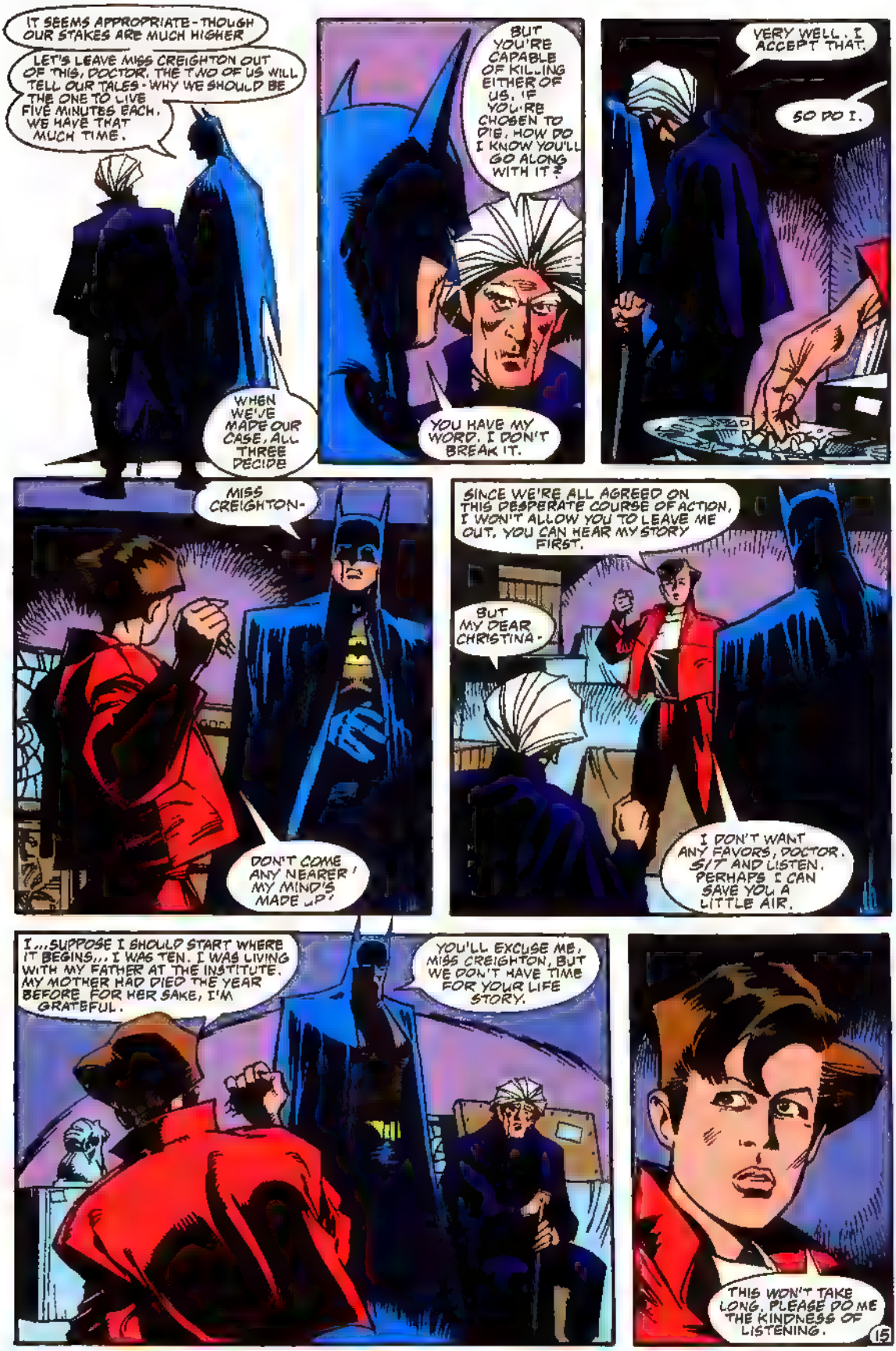
KEEP BACK NOW, FOLKS
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THERE'S BEEN A ROBBERY- SOME PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THE VAULT.
MOVE ALONG NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO DO HERE BUT GET WET


BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP


BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THEY'RE SENDING FOR CUTTING EQUIPMENT. ESTIMATE TWENTY MINUTES.

THAT'S FIVE AND A HALF HOURS BEFORE THEY CAN BE THROUGH
TRANQUILIZER DARTS.
ONE PUTS YOU OUT- THREE MAKES IT PERMANENT.
TIME'S RUNN NG OUT. LEAVE IT MUCH LONGER AND THERE'LL ONLY BE ENOUGH AIR FOR ONE. WE HAVE TO DECIDE NOW
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I CAN T TAKE PART IN SUCH A THING!
IT'S A TERRIBLE PROSPECT, MY DEAR. BUT... WHAT BATMAN SAYS MAKES SENSE.
WE MUST BE REALISTIC. IT'S ONE... OR ALL.
AND HOW DO WE CHOOSE WHO DIES? NAMES IN A HAT? DRAW STRAWS? EENY MEENY MINEY MO? YOU CAN'T DECIDE SOMEONE'S LIFE LIKE THAT!
THE CANTERBURY TALES... THAT WAS ALL OVER A DINNER, WASN'T IT?
WHICHEVER PILGRIM TOLD THE BEST TALE WOULD BE BOUGHT A DINNER PAID FOR BY ALL...
14

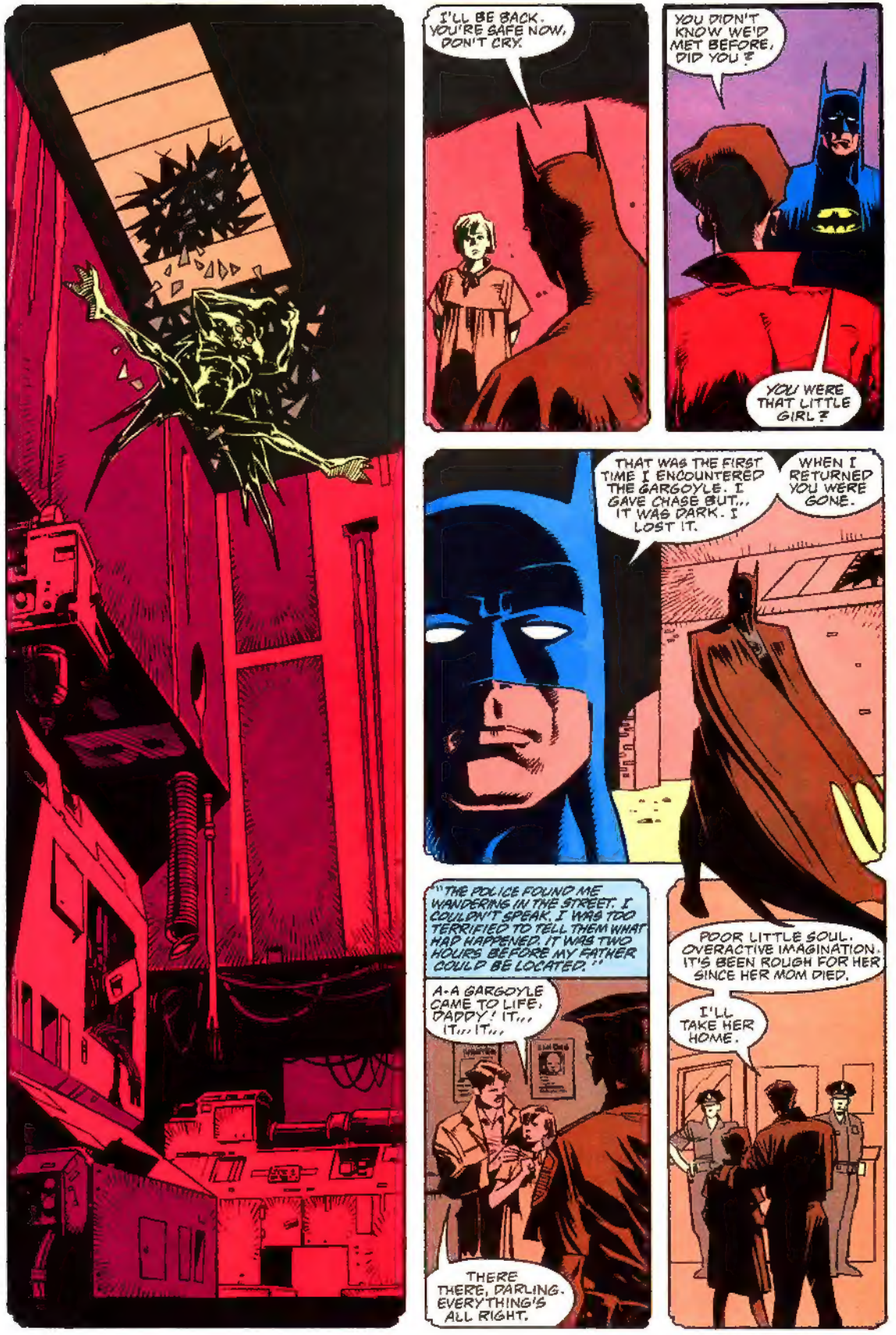

IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE - THOUGH OUR STAKES ARE MUCH HIGHER
LET'S LEAVE MISS CREIGHTON OUT OF THIS, DOCTOR. THE TWO OF US WILL TELL OUR TALES - WHY WE SHOULD BE THE ONE TO LIVE FIVE MINUTES EACH. WE HAVE THAT MUCH TIME.
WHEN WE'VE MADE OUR CASE, ALL THREE DECIDE
BUT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF KILLING EITHER OF US, IF YOU'RE CHOSEN TO DIE. HOW DO I KNOW YOU'LL GO ALONG WITH IT?
YOU HAVE MY WORD. I DON'T BREAK IT.
VERY WELL. I ACCEPT THAT.
SO DO I.
MISS CREIGHTON-
DON'T COME ANY NEARER! MY MIND'S MADE UP!
SINCE WE'RE ALL AGREED ON THIS DESPERATE COURSE OF ACTION, I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE ME OUT. YOU CAN HEAR MY STORY FIRST.
BUT MY DEAR CHRISTINA-
I DON'T WANT ANY FAVORS, DOCTOR. SIT AND LISTEN. PERHAPS I CAN SAVE YOU A LITTLE AIR.
I...SUPPOSE I SHOULD START WHERE IT BEGINS... I WAS TEN. I WAS LIVING WITH MY FATHER AT THE INSTITUTE. MY MOTHER HAD DIED THE YEAR BEFORE. FOR HER SAKE, I'M GRATEFUL.
YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MISS CREIGHTON, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR LIFE STORY.
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG. PLEASE DO ME THE KINDNESS OF LISTENING.
15

"I WAS NEVER HAPPY AT THE INSTITUTE. AS YOU KNOW, IT'S ONE OF THE FINEST GOTHIC BUILDINGS IN GOTHAM- BUT TO A TEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD IT WAS A PLACE OF TERROR..."
"EACH DARK RECESS HELD SOME IMAGINED HORROR, WAITING TO POUNCE... EACH CARVED GARGOYLE FACE SEEMED FILLED WITH EVIL INTENT, SPECIALLY FOR ME."
"WHEREVER I WENT THEIR EYES WOULD FOLLOW ME..."
"STONE FACES, COLD EYES... BUT I WAS SURE THAT THEY WERE ALIVE, THAT THEY WANTED TO HURT ME..."
"AND ONE NIGHT IT CAME TRUE..."
IS... IS SOMEBODY THERE...?
16

UHH..
UHHH...
UHHH
DADDEEEEE!
HE WASN'T THERE. I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE WITH YOU, DOCTOR YOU OFTEN WORKED TOGETHER THEN.
YES... HE'D ASKED MY HELP WITH SOME FORMULAE HE'D DISCOVERED IN AN OLD MANUSCRIPT- JORIX, THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY ALCHEMIST...
ALCHEMY! IF ONLY I'D KNOWN WHAT WOULD COME OF IT!
17

YOU LIVED ACROSS THE QUADRANGLE, I REMEMBER. I NEVER GOT THERE...
"SOMEHOW I FOUND MYSELF OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTE."
"AND IT FOLLOWED ME..."

AUTO
DO NOT BE AFRAID, DEAR ONE... IT WILL SOON BE ALL OVER...
CRASSHHH!


I'LL BE BACK. YOU'RE SAFE NOW, DON'T CRY.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW WE'D MET BEFORE, DID YOU?
YOU WERE THAT LITTLE GIRL?
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I ENCOUNTERED THE GARGOYLE. I GAVE CHASE BUT... IT WAS DARK. I LOST IT.
WHEN I RETURNED YOU WERE GONE.
"THE POLICE FOUND ME WANDERING IN THE STREET. I COULDN'T SPEAK. I WAS TOO TERRIFIED TO TELL THEM WHAT HAD HAPPENED. IT WAS TWO HOURS BEFORE MY FATHER COULD BE LOCATED."
A-A GARGOYLE CAME TO LIFE, DADDY! IT... IT... IT...
THERE THERE, DARLING. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.
POOR LITTLE SOUL. OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION. IT'S BEEN ROUGH FOR HER SINCE HER MOM DIED.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME.

I USED HER BLOOD, MORRIS!

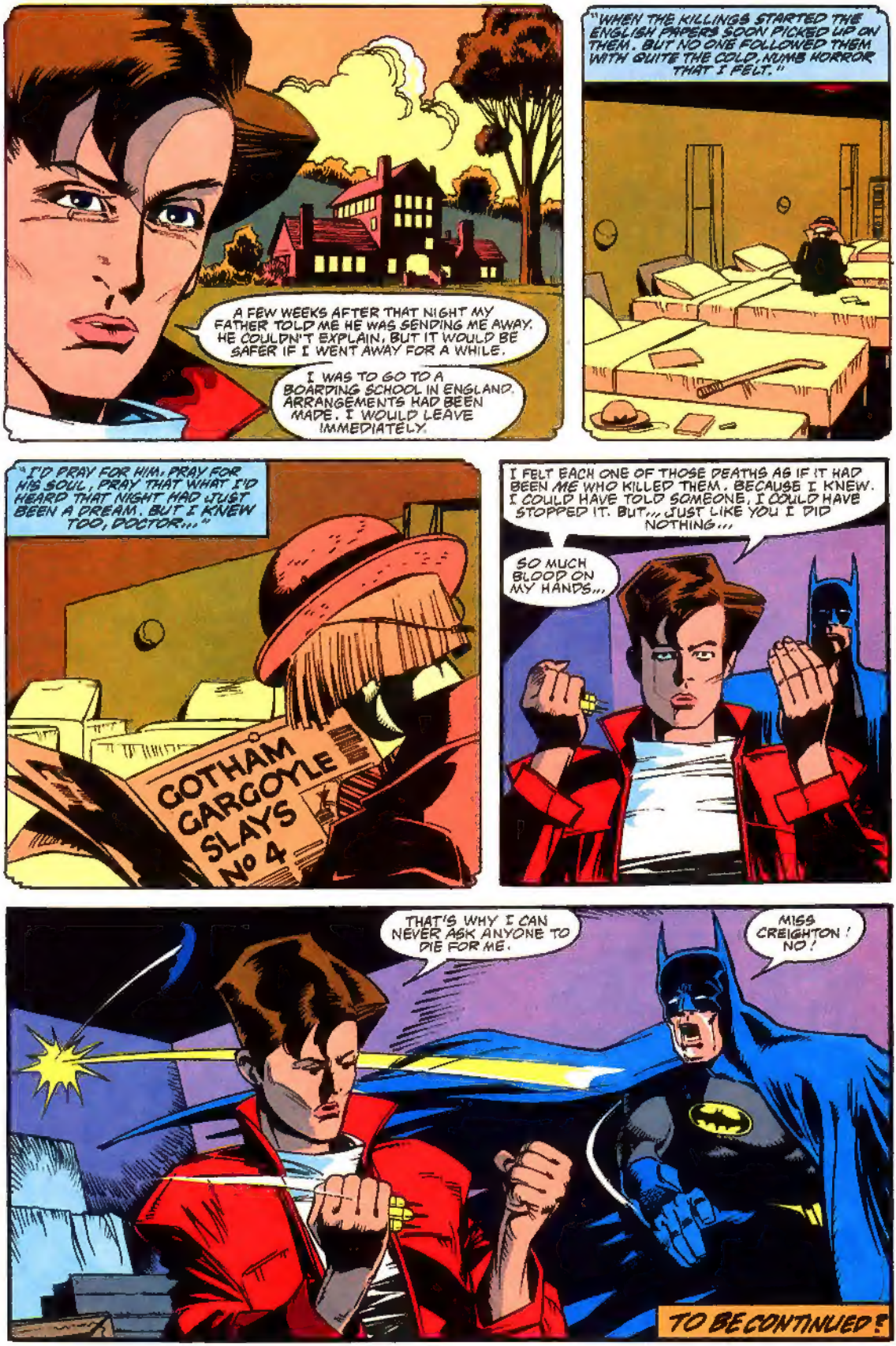
FOOL THAT I WAS! JUST A FEW DROPS - THAT TIME SHE CUT HERSELF. THAT'S ALL.

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD MATTER... BUT...
I WANTED MORE, MORRIS! HER BLOOD-ALL OF IT! IF... IF BATMAN HADN'T STOPPED ME I'D HAVE KILLED HER!

DADDY... I CAN'T SLEEP...

"YOU DIDN'T THINK I REMEMBERED, DID YOU, DOCTOR?"
"YOU SAID AT THE INQUEST THAT YOU NEVER CONNECTED MY FATHER WITH THE GARGOYLE. YOU'VE SAID THE SAME TO ME TONIGHT. BUT YOU KNEW. I HEARD HIM TELL YOU."
"WHY DID YOU LIE, DOCTOR?"

WHAT... WHAT COULD I SAY? THAT I KNEW AND KEPT QUIET ALL THAT TIME BECAUSE... BECAUSE DAVID WAS MY FRIEND. MISGUIDED AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN, I-I WANTED TO PROTECT HIM.
ONCE DAVID WAS DEAD-AND WITH HIM THE GARGOYLE-I... I SAW NO REASON TO IMPLICATE MYSELF...
I SEE.


A FEW WEEKS AFTER THAT NIGHT MY FATHER TOLD ME HE WAS SENDING ME AWAY. HE COULDN'T EXPLAIN, BUT IT WOULD BE SAFER IF I WENT AWAY FOR A WHILE.
I WAS TO GO TO A BOARDING SCHOOL IN ENGLAND. ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE. I WOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
"WHEN THE KILLINGS STARTED THE ENGLISH PAPERS SOON PICKED UP ON THEM. BUT NO ONE FOLLOWED THEM WITH QUITE THE COLD, NUMB HORROR THAT I FELT."
"I'D PRAY FOR HIM. PRAY FOR HIS SOUL. PRAY THAT WHAT I'D HEARD THAT NIGHT HAD JUST BEEN A DREAM. BUT I KNEW TOO, DOCTOR..."
GOTHAM GARGOYLE SLAYS Nº 4
I FELT EACH ONE OF THOSE DEATHS AS IF IT HAD BEEN ME WHO KILLED THEM. BECAUSE I KNEW. I COULD HAVE TOLD SOMEONE. I COULD HAVE STOPPED IT. BUT... JUST LIKE YOU I DID NOTHING...
SO MUCH BLOOD ON MY HANDS...
THAT'S WHY I CAN NEVER ASK ANYONE TO DIE FOR ME.
MISS CREIGHTON! NO!
TO BE CONTINUED!

BAT-SIGNALS

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Dear Bat-Signals,

This is the first time I've written to DC, but I must say that BATMAN #472 was great. The cover was great, the art was great, the story was great— everything about it was great. I just started collecting Batman recently, and I must say, I am very impressed with this book. Keep up the good work.

Frank Caruso
Kutztown, PA

I am such a sucker for the old "first time writing" ploy...

* * * * *

Hey Kelley,

Although Alan Grant's name appeared on the cover (?), Peter Milligan stole the show with another superb story, "The Idiot Root." You know a story is going to be unusual when a vicious, amazingly brutal, sick psychopathic killer like the Queen of Hearts is simply a supporting villain. The Idiot is the real problem here, and I really like where this story is going. It's always fun to mess around with the mind of the hero, and Peter certainly doesn't disappoint. The phone sequence on pgs. 12-14 was disturbing and—strangely enough—fun, and the ending was wicked. That's what I like most about Peter's work—even while it sends chills up and down your spine, it's fun.

Jason Crase
Arlington Heights, IL

* * * * *

Dear Bat-Dudes,

BATMAN #472, "The Idiot Root," is radical. I especially like the cover, page 14 and page 22. Neat how you got Batman out of Gotham City for ROBIN II. It looks like Batman has his hands full fighting that zombie drug guy and the hearts lady.

Is it just me, or does that guy with the yellow shirt and brown hat on pages 10, 11, 15, and 19-21 look like Jason Todd?

Brian Casperite
Merritt Island, FL

It's just you.

* * * * *

Hi, Guys,

BATMAN #472: This *one* issue speaks more about not taking drugs than the catch phrase "just-say-no."

Besides that, this issue was a three-ring circus of a story. The Queen of Hearts, Dead Boys and the Idiot. What to watch, what to watch?

Melissa Page
Austin Peay University
Clarksville, TN

The Watchmen.

* * * * *

Dear Denny and Kelley,

All my comics collecting life, I have been awaiting a super-villain who uses a cordless rotary egg whisk to massacre his or her victims. Please thank Peter Milligan for making that particular dream come true. But don't stop there—keep bringing us these kitchen appliances. Imagine what it would have been like if the Joker had clubbed Jason Todd to death with a wooden spoon! And what if the Penguin stuck his nose in a blender?

BATMAN #472 was another eerie psychological drama from the twisted mind of Mr. Milligan, brought to life by the twisted pencils of Mr. Breyfogle. A classic in the making. Now, get the cover credits right, or I'm coming after you with my lethal sieve.

Rock and Rolling Pins,
Rol Hirst
W. Yorks, England

* * * * *

Dear Dennis,

I just finished part one of "The Idiot Root" in BATMAN #472. I really enjoyed it. The Queen of Hearts is a real weirdo. Anybody who collects people's hearts has got to have something wrong with his or her brain.

I have a question. Has the Queen of Hearts actually appeared in back issues of BATMAN, or was she just created for this storyline?

Scott Dunn
London, KY

This was indeed the first appearance of the Queen, direct from the brilliant mind of Peter Milligan.

* * * * *

Dear Bat-People,

I'm writing to say that I enjoyed BATMAN #472 very much. It was interesting to watch the Darknight Detective get by when he's not able to trust his own mind. The only thing that bothered me was that more strange things didn't happen in Batman's mind, but seeing how this issue came to a close, I have no complaints. After all, it looks like Batman will have his hands full in 'TEC #639 trying to figure out what is real and what isn't.

I also like the fact that "The Idiot Root" will be a crossover with part two in 'TEC #639 and part three back in BATMAN #473. Often in the past, there has been a two- or three-part storyline in BATMAN *and* a two- or three-part storyline in 'TEC at the same time. I then ask myself, "How can Batman be in two different continuing storylines at the same time?" I then answer my own question by thinking, "He can't! One of the stories must take place before or after the other story." The question I can't answer is "Which one?" There's no way to know! Because of this, I never knew the exact chronology of many stories. This is why I like "The Idiot Root" (and all crossovers). The way crossovers go back and forth between BATMAN and 'TEC instead of concentrating the story in only one of the titles helps to keep the chronology at an easy to understand level. I hope to see more crossovers in Batman's future.

Michael Weinberg
Riverdale, NY

In general, Michael, our continuity isn't all that exact, the way it is over in the SUPERMAN titles, but we're glad we made you happy. I hope you also enjoyed our big "Destroyer" crossover. You can expect more, although perhaps not in the immediate future. We do have one planned for a few months down the road that you're going to love, though. Believe me, it'll be well worth the wait.

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PERSONAL ADS DEPARTMENT: Regular letterhack Jason Crase asks for other readers to write him at 3022 Huntington Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, in order to exchange opinions, ideas, and maybe, just maybe, a very small frog. He would especially like MJ from NYC to please write with her address. Thank you.

OTHER BATSTUFF DEPARTMENT: Keep your eyes peeled (a rather disgusting phrase, when you think about —or even when you don't) for the final issue of GOTHAM NIGHTS by John Ostrander, Mary Mitchell and Bruce Patterson, with an incredible cover by Eduardo Barreto. It's sure to be one of the most talked about series of the year, so don't miss it.

Be here in just two weeks for the incredible conclusion of "A Gotham Tale." Find out all you ever wanted to know about the Gargoyle—and more. It's brought to you from across the pond by John Wagner and Cam Kennedy, with a photo cover by Tom Taggart. See ya then.

—Scott Peterson
can't hardly wait